

**Amendments to the claims:**

1. (currently amended) A drilling tool (1) for percussion drilling, which comprises a cutting element (3) that is configured as a plate (3) or head and that has at least one cutting edge (11) defined by a cutting face (6) and a free face (10),  
wherein the cutting edge (11) is associated with a first free face section (10a) which lies in a cutting plane (CP) and is followed by a second free face section (10b), wherein the cutting plane (CP) is cut at a right angle to the cutting edge (11) and wherein the first free face section (10a) is convex and is limited by a convex bulge (13) or a convex polygon outline (15), while the second free face section (10b) is straight, wherein a rib (14) is defined by the first free face section (10a) and an associated first cutting face section (6a), wherein a vertical height (H) of said rib (14) ranges from 0.1 mm to 1.0 mm, wherein  
an extension (V) of the second free face section (10b) extends in a direction of rotation (d) of the drilling tool (1) through the cutting element (3) below the cutting edge (11), and wherein said extension (V) defines an intersection and dividing line between the first free convex face section (10a) and the second straight free face section (10b).
  
2. (previously presented) The drilling tool as recited in Claim 1, wherein the vertical height (H) of the rib (14) ranges from 0.1 mm to 0.5 mm.

3. (previously presented) The drilling tool as recited in Claim 1, wherein the vertical height (H) of the rib (14) increases toward the longitudinal axis (L) of the drilling tool.
4. (previously presented) The drilling tool as recited in Claim 1, wherein the vertical height (H) of the rib (14) decreases toward the longitudinal axis (L).
5. (previously presented) The drilling tool as recited in Claim 1, wherein at least one second free face section (10b) follows the first free face section (10a).
6. (previously presented) The drilling tool as recited in Claim 1, wherein at least one second cutting face section (6b) follows the first cutting face section (6a).
7. (canceled)
8. (currently amended) A drilling tool (1) for percussion drilling, which comprises a cutting element (3) that is configured as a plate (3) or head and that has at least one cutting edge (11) defined by a cutting face (6) and a free face (10),  
wherein the cutting edge (11) is associated with a first free face section (10a)  
which lies in a cutting plane (CP) and is followed by a second free face section (10b),  
wherein the cutting plane (CP) is cut at a right angle to the cutting edge (11) and  
wherein the first free face section (10a) is convex and is limited by a convex bulge (13)  
or a convex polygon outline (15), while the second free face section (10b) is straight,

wherein a rib (14) is defined by the first free face section (10a) and an associated first cutting face section (6a), and wherein a vertical height (H) of the rib (14) ranges from 0.1 mm to 0.5 mm.

9. (previously presented) A drilling tool (1) for percussion drilling, which comprises a cutting element (3) that is configured as a plate (3) or head and that has at least one cutting edge (11) defined by a cutting face (6) and a free face (10),

wherein the cutting edge (11) is associated with a first free face section (10a) which lies in a cutting plane (CP) and is followed by a second free face section (10b), wherein the cutting plane (CP) is cut at a right angle to the cutting edge (11) and wherein the first free face section (10a) is convex and is limited by a convex bulge (13) or a convex polygon outline (15), while the second free face section (10b) is straight, wherein a rib (14) is defined by the first free face section (10a) and an associated first cutting face section (6a), wherein a vertical height (H) of the rib (14) ranges from 0.1 mm to 0.5 mm, and wherein

at least one second free face section (10b) follows the first free face section (10a),

wherein the vertical height is a distance between a first plane (P) and a second plane (E), wherein said first plane (P) extends perpendicular to a longitudinal axis (L) and is parallel with the second plane (E), and wherein the first plane (P) intersects the cutting element (3) at a transition of the first free face section (10a) into the second free convex face section (10b), and wherein the second straight plane (3) is cut by said cutting edge (11).

10. (currently amended) A drilling tool (1) for percussion drilling, which comprises a cutting element (3) that is configured as a plate (3) or head and that has at least one cutting edge (11) defined by a cutting face (6) and a free face (10),

wherein the cutting edge (11) is associated with a first free face section (10a) which lies in a cutting plane (CP) and is followed by a second free face section (10b), wherein the cutting plane (CP) is cut at a right angle to the cutting edge (11) and wherein the first free face section (10a) is convex and is limited by a convex bulge (13) or a convex polygon outline (15), while the second free face section (10b) is straight, wherein a rib (14) is defined by the first free face section (10a) and an associated first cutting face section (6a), wherein a vertical height (H) of said rib (14) ranges from 0.1 mm to 1.0 mm, and wherein the vertical height (H) of the rib (14) increases toward the longitudinal axis (L) of the drilling tool.

11. (previously presented) A drilling tool (1) for percussion drilling, which comprises a cutting element (3) that is configured as a plate (3) or head and that has at least one cutting edge (11) defined by a cutting face (6) and a free face (10),

wherein the cutting edge (11) is associated with a first free face section (10a) which lies in a cutting plane (CP), wherein the cutting plane (CP) is cut at a right angle to the cutting edge (11) and wherein the first free face section (10a) is limited by a convex bulge (13) or a convex polygon outline (15), wherein a rib (14) is defined by the first free face section (10a) and an associated first cutting face section (6a), wherein a vertical height (H) of said rib (14) ranges from 0.1 mm to 1.0 mm, wherein the vertical height (H) of the rib (14) decreases toward the longitudinal axis (L).